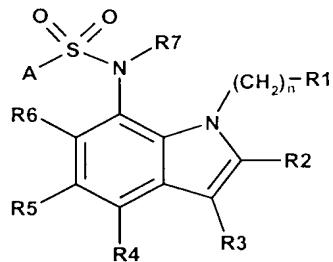


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A sulfonamide compound of general formula (Ia),



(Ia),

wherein

R^1 is a $-\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$ radical or a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted cycloaliphatic radical, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member and which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member,

R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 , identical or different, each represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, alkoxy, cyano, a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted aliphatic radical, or an optionally at least mono-substituted phenyl radical or an optionally at least mono-substituted heteroaryl radical,

R^7 represents hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted aliphatic radical,

R^8 and R^9 , identical or different, represent hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted aliphatic radical,

with the proviso that R^8 and R^9 are not hydrogen at the same time, and if one of them, R^8 or R^9 , is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted

C₁-C₄ aliphatic radical, the other one is a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted aliphatic radical with at least five carbon atoms,

or

R⁸ and R⁹ together with the bridging nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted heterocyclic ring, which may contain at least one additional heteroatom as a ring member and/or which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member,

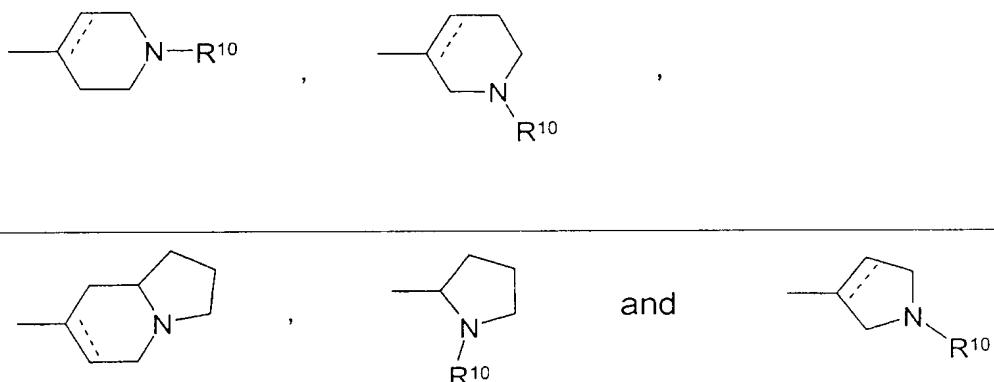
A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, which may be bonded via an optionally at least mono-substituted alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene group and/or which may contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member in one or more of its rings,

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

optionally in form of one of its stereoisomers, ~~preferably enantiomers or diastereomers~~, its racemate or in form of a mixture of at least two of its stereoisomers, ~~preferably enantiomers or diastereomers~~, in any mixing ratio, or a salt thereof, ~~preferably a corresponding, physiologically acceptable salt thereof, or a corresponding solvate thereof.~~

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein R¹ represents a -NR⁸R⁹ radical or a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted 5- or 6-membered cycloaliphatic radical which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member and/or which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, whereby the rings of the ring system are 5- or 6-membered;

~~preferably R⁺ represents an NR⁸R⁹ radical or a radical chosen from the group consisting of~~



~~wherein, if present, the dotted line is an optional chemical bond, and R¹⁰ is hydrogen, a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl radical or a benzyl radical, preferably hydrogen or a C₁-C₂ alkyl radical.~~

Claim 3 (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkenyl radical or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkynyl radical;

~~preferably R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl radical,~~

~~more preferably R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ each represent hydrogen.~~

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A compound according to ~~one or more of the claims~~ ~~claim 1 [[to 3]], wherein characterized in that~~ R⁷ represents hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkenyl radical or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkynyl radical;

~~preferably R⁷ represents hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl radical,~~

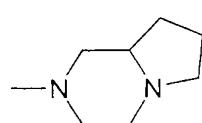
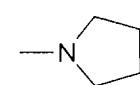
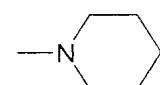
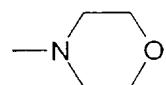
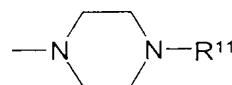
~~more preferably R⁷ represents hydrogen or a C₁-C₂-alkyl radical.~~

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A compound according to ~~one or more of claims claim~~ 1 [[to 4]], characterized in that R⁸ and R⁹, identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₁₀ alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₁₀ alkenyl radical or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₁₀ alkynyl radical,

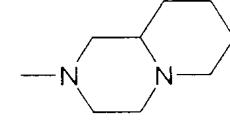
or

R⁸ and R⁹ together with the bridging nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring, which may contain at least one additional heteroatom as a ring member and/or which may be condensed with a saturated or unsaturated, optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or bicyclic cycloaliphatic ring system, which may optionally contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member, whereby the rings of the ring system are 5-, 6- or 7-membered.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A compound according to claim 5, characterized in that wherein R⁸ and R⁹, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched C₁-C₁₀ alkyl radical, or R⁸ and R⁹ together with the bridging nitrogen atom form a radical chosen from the group consisting of



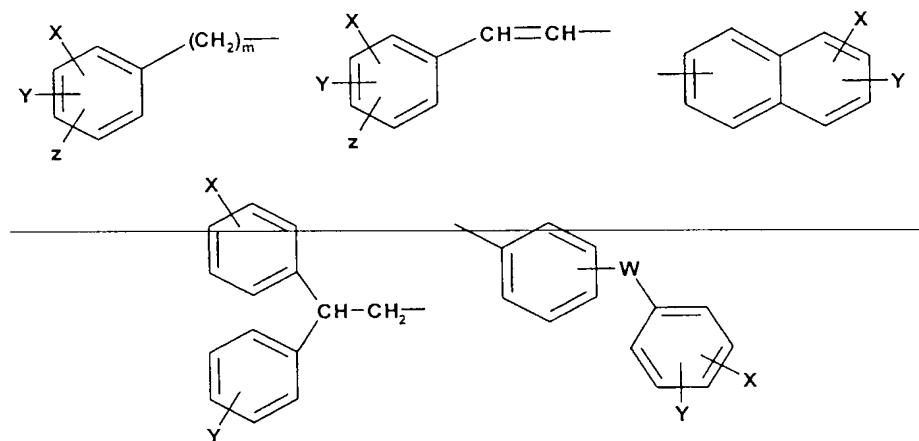
and



wherein R¹¹, if present, represents hydrogen, a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl radical or a benzyl radical, ~~preferably hydrogen, or a C₁-C₂-alkyl radical.~~

Claim 7 (Currently amended): A compound according to ~~one or more of claims claim~~ 1 [[to 6]], characterized in that wherein A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered, which may be bonded via an optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₆ alkylene group, an optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkenylene group or an optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkynylene group and/or wherein the ring(s) may contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member;

~~preferably A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered and wherein one or more of the rings contain at least one heteroatom, or a radical chosen from the group consisting of~~



~~wherein X, Y, Z, independently from one another, each represent a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkylthio, a trifluoromethyl radical, a cyano radical and a NR⁺²R⁺³ radical,~~

~~wherein R⁺² and R⁺³, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl,~~

~~W represents a single chemical bond between the two rings, a CH₂, O, S group or a NR⁺⁴ radical,~~

wherein R^{14} is hydrogen or a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl,

m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and

$m1$ is 1 or 2.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A compound of general formula (Ia) according to one or more of claims claim 1 [[to 7]] selected from the group consisting of

[5] 5-chloro-3-methyl-N-(1-(2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1H-indol-7-yl)-benzo[b]thiophen-2-sulfonamide,

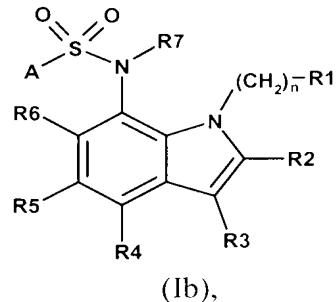
[6] N-(1-(2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1H-indol-7-yl)naphthalene-1-sulfonamide,

[7] 6-chloro-N-(1-(2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1H-indol-7-yl)imidazo[2,1-b]thiazole-5-sulfonamide, [[and]]

[8] 2-(naphth-1-yl)-N-(1-(2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl)-1H-indol-7-yl)ethansulfonamide,

and their corresponding salts and solvates.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A sulfonamide compound of general formula (Ib),



wherein

R^1 represents a $-NR^8R^9$ radical,

R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 , identical or different, each represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, alkoxy, cyano, a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted aliphatic radical, or an optionally at least mono-substituted phenyl radical or an optionally at least mono-substituted heteroaryl radical,

R^7 represents hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted aliphatic radical,

R^8 and R^9 , identical or different, represent hydrogen or a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_{1-4} aliphatic radical,

A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, which may be bonded via an optionally at least mono-substituted alkylene, alkenylene or alkynylene group and/or which may contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member in one or more of its rings,

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

optionally in form of one of its stereoisomers, ~~preferably enantiomers or diastereomers~~, its racemate or in form of a mixture of at least two of its stereoisomers, ~~preferably enantiomers or diastereomers~~, in any mixing ratio, or a salt thereof, ~~preferably a corresponding, physiologically acceptable salt thereof, or a corresponding solvate thereof.~~

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A compound according to claim 9, characterized in that wherein R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 , identical or different, each represent hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_{1-C_6} alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_{2-C_6} alkenyl radical or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C_{2-C_6} alkynyl radical,

~~preferably R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 , identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted, C_{1-C_6} alkyl radical,~~

~~more preferably R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ each represent hydrogen.~~

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A compound according to claim 9 [[or 10]], characterized in that wherein R⁷ represents hydrogen, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl radical, a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkenyl radical or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkynyl radical;

~~preferably R⁷ represents hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl radical,~~

~~more preferably R⁷ represents hydrogen or a C₁-C₂ alkyl radical.~~

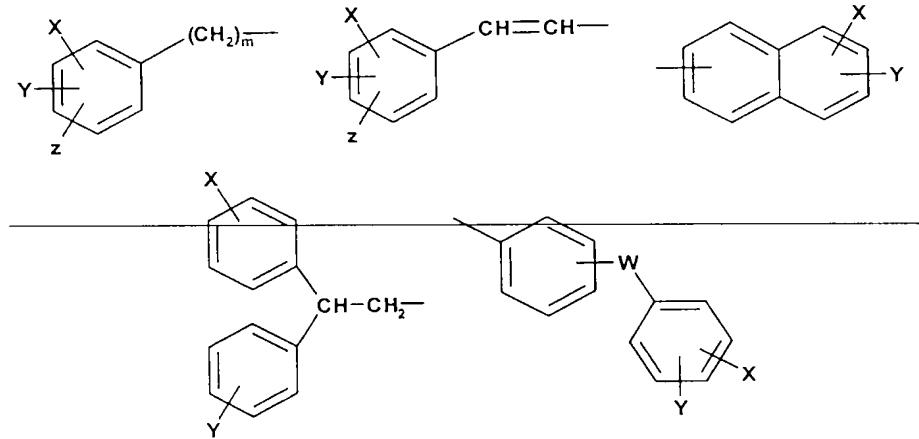
Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A compound according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 9 [[to 11]], characterized in that wherein R⁸ and R⁹, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₄ alkyl radical,

~~preferably R⁸ and R⁹, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a C₁-C₂ alkyl radical,~~

with the proviso that R⁸ and R⁹ are not hydrogen at the same time.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A compound according to ~~one or more of claims~~ claim 9 [[to 12]], characterized in that wherein A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered, which may be bonded via an optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₆ alkylene group, an optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkenylene group or an optionally at least mono-substituted C₂-C₆ alkynylene group and/or wherein the ring(s) may contain at least one heteroatom as a ring member;

preferably A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered and wherein one or more of the rings contain at least one heteroatom, or a radical chosen from the group consisting of



wherein X, Y, Z, independently from one another, each represent a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkylthio, a trifluoromethyl radical, a cyano radical and a NR⁺²R⁺³ radical,

wherein R⁺² and R⁺³, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl,

W represents a single chemical bond between the two rings, a CH₂, O, S group or a NR⁺⁴ radical,

wherein R⁺⁴ is hydrogen or a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl,

m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and

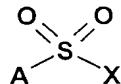
m1 is 1 or 2.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A compound according to ~~one or more of claims~~ claim 9 [[to 13]] selected from the group consisting of

- [1] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-7-yl]-naphtalene-1-sulfonamide,
- [2] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-7-yl]-5-chloro-3-methylbenzo[b]thiophene-2-sulfonamide,
- [3] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-7-yl]-4-phenylbenzenesulfonamide,
[[and]]
- [4] N-[1-(2-dimethylaminoethyl)-1H-indole-7-yl]-6-chloroimidazo[2,1-b]thiazole-5-sulfonamide,

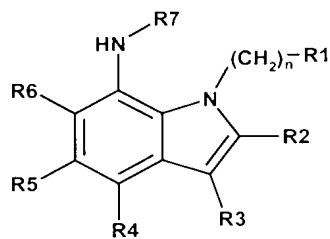
and their corresponding salts ~~and solvates~~.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A process for obtaining a sulfonamide derivative of general formula (Ia) ~~and/or (Ib)~~, according to ~~one or more of claims~~ claim 1 [[- 14]], characterized in that wherein at least one compound of general formula (II), or one of its suitably protected derivatives,



(II)

wherein ~~A has the meaning according to one or more of claims 1—14, and X is an acceptable leaving group, preferably an halogen atom, more preferably chlorine and is reacted with at least one 7-aminoindole of general formula (III), or one of its suitably protected derivatives;~~



(III),

~~wherein R⁴-R⁷ and n have the meaning according to one or more of claims 1-14 to obtain the corresponding sulfonamide and optionally, from the latter, the protective groups may be removed if necessary.~~

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A process for obtaining a sulfonamide derivative of general formula (Ia) ~~and/or (Ib)~~, according to ~~one or more of claims claim 1 [- 14]~~, wherein ~~R⁴-R⁶, R⁸ and R⁹, n and A have the meaning according to one or more of claims 1-14, and R⁷ is a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, characterized in that comprising reacting at least one compound of general formula (Ia) and/or at least one compound of general formula (Ib), wherein R⁴-R⁶, R⁸, R⁹, n and A have the meaning indicated in claims 1-14, and R⁷ is an hydrogen atom, is reacted with an alkyl halogenide or dialkyl sulfate.~~

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A process for preparing the salts, preferably the physiologically acceptable salts of the compounds ~~a salt~~ of general formula (Ia) ~~and/or (Ib)~~, according to ~~one or more of claims claim 1 [- 14]~~, consisting of reacting ~~wherein~~ at least one compound of the general formula (Ia) ~~and/or at least one compound of the general formula (Ib) is reacted~~ with a mineral acid or organic acid in a suitable solvent.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition medicament comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound according to ~~one or more of claims claim 1 [to 8]~~ and optionally one or more pharmacologically acceptable excipients.

Claims 19-45 (Canceled).

Claim 46 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition medicament

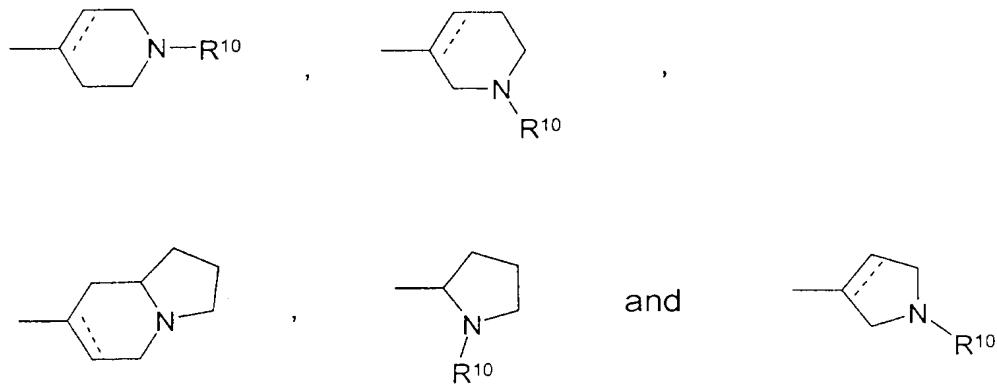
comprising a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound according to ~~one or more of claims 9 to 14~~ claim 9 and optionally one or more pharmacologically acceptable excipients.

Claims 47-73 (Canceled).

Claim 74 (New): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is in the form of a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 75 (New): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is in the form of its enantiomers or diastereomers or in the form or a mixture of at least two of its enantiomers and/or diastereomers.

Claim 76 (New): The compound according to claim 2 wherein R¹ represents an -NR⁸R⁹ radical or a radical chosen from the group consisting of



wherein, if present, the dotted line is an optional chemical bond, and R¹⁰ is hydrogen, a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl radical or a benzyl radical.

Claim 77 (New): The compound according to claim 76, wherein R¹⁰ is hydrogen or a C₁-C₂ alkyl radical.

Claim 78 (New): The compound according to claim 3, wherein R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least

mono substituted, C₁-C₆ alkyl radical.

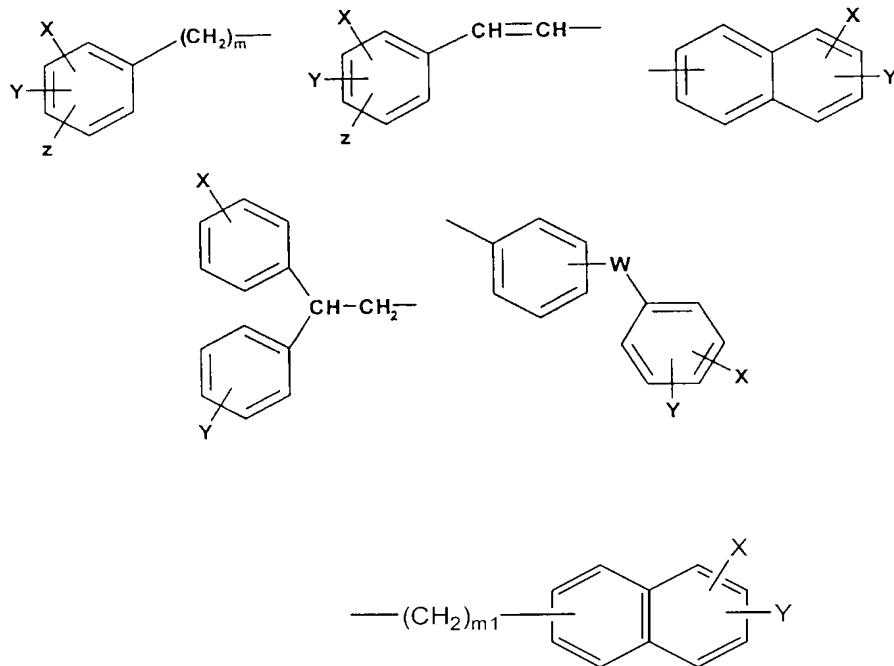
Claim 79 (New): The compound according to claim 78, wherein R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ each represent hydrogen.

Claim 80 (New): The compound according to claim 4, wherein R⁷ represents hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl radical.

Claim 81 (New): The compound according to claim 80, wherein R⁷ represents hydrogen or a C₁-C₂ alkyl radical.

Claim 82 (New): The compound according to claim 6, wherein R¹¹ represents hydrogen or a C₁-C₂ alkyl radical.

Claim 83 (New): The compound according to claim 7, wherein A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered and wherein one or more of the rings contain at least one heteroatom, or a radical chosen from the group consisting of



wherein X, Y, Z, independently from one another, each represent a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkylthio, a trifluoromethyl radical, a cyano radical and a -NR¹²R¹³ radical,

wherein R¹² and R¹³, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl,

W represents a single chemical bond between the two rings, a CH₂, O, S group or a NR¹⁴ radical,

wherein R¹⁴ is hydrogen or a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl,

m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and

m1 is 1 or 2.

Claim 84 (New): The compound according to claim 9, wherein the salt is in the form of a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 85 (New): The compound according to claim 9, wherein the compound is in the form of its enantiomers or diastereomers, or in the form of a mixture of at least two of its enantiomers and/or diastereomers.

Claim 86 (New): The compound according to claim 10, wherein R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono substituted, C₁-C₆ alkyl radical.

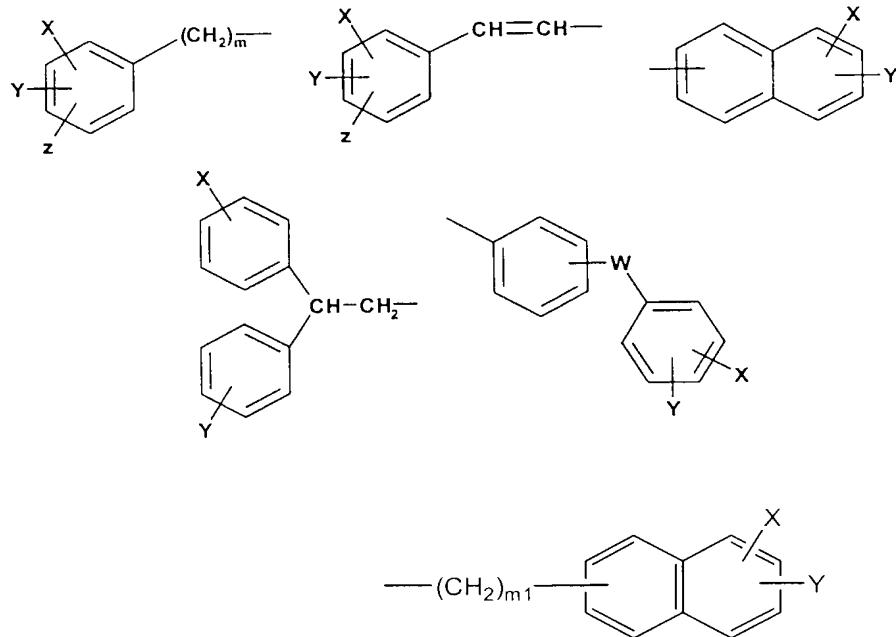
Claim 87 (New): The compound according to claim 86, wherein R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ each represent hydrogen.

Claim 88 (New): The compound according to claim 11, wherein R⁷ represents hydrogen or a linear or branched, optionally at least mono-substituted C₁-C₆ alkyl radical.

Claim 89 (New): The compound according to claim 88, wherein R⁷ represents hydrogen or a C₁-C₂ alkyl radical.

Claim 90 (New): The compound according to claim 12, wherein R⁸ and R⁹, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or C₁-C₂ alkyl radical, with the proviso that R⁸ and R⁹ are not hydrogen at the same time.

Claim 91 (New): The compound according to claim 13, wherein A represents an optionally at least mono-substituted mono- or polycyclic aromatic ring system, wherein the ring(s) is/are 5- or 6-membered and wherein one or more of the rings contain at least one heteroatom, or a radical chosen from the group consisting of



wherein X, Y, Z, independently from one another, each represent a radical selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy, linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkylthio, a trifluoromethyl radical, a cyano radical and a $-\text{NR}^{12}\text{R}^{13}$ radical,

wherein R¹² and R¹³, identical or different, each represent hydrogen or linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl,

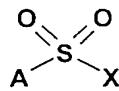
W represents a single chemical bond between the two rings, a CH₂, O, S group or a NR¹⁴ radical,

wherein R¹⁴ is hydrogen or a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl,

m is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4 and

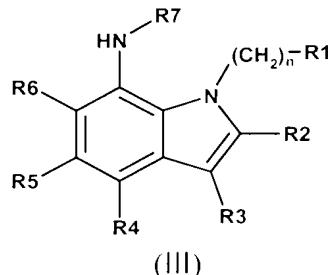
m1 is 1 or 2.

Claim 92 (New): A process for obtaining a sulfonamide derivative of general formula (Ib) as defined in claim 9, wherein at least one compound of general formula (II), or one of its suitably protected derivatives,



(II)

wherein X is an acceptable leaving group, is reacted with at least one 7-aminoindole of general formula (III), or one of its suitably protected derivatives;



(III)

to obtain the corresponding sulfonamide and optionally, from the latter, the protective groups may be removed if necessary.

Claim 93 (New): A process for obtaining a sulfonamide derivative of general formula (Ib) as defined in claim 9, wherein R⁷ is a linear or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl comprising reacting

Application No. 10/566,403
Reply to Office Action of July 17, 2007

at least one compound of general formula (Ib), wherein R⁷ is a hydrogen atom, with an alkyl halogenide or dialkyl sulfate.

Claim 94 (New): A process for preparing a salt of general formula (Ib), as defined in claim 9, wherein at least one compound of the general formula (Ib) is reacted with a mineral acid or organic acid in a suitable solvent.

Claim 95 (New): The process according to claim 15, wherein X is a halogen atom.

Claim 96 (New): The process according to claim 15, wherein X is chlorine.

Claim 97 (New): The process according to claim 92, wherein X is a halogen atom.

Claim 98 (New): The process according to claim 92, wherein X is chlorine.